

Horseman Hits Another Wycombe Hat-Trick

FROM TRAFFIC JAM TO A GOAL-RUSH AT ILFORD

Ilford 1, Wycombe Wanderers 5.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS arrived seven minutes late for their match with Ilford at Newbury Park on Saturday. After changing, play finally commenced twenty-five minutes after the scheduled 3 p.m. kick-off. But they soon caught up with themselves.

The coach had been held up in heavy traffic going to the League Cup Final at Wembley. But it proved a happy ending for Wycombe and goal-poacher extraordinary, Tony Horseman, who scored an inevitable hat-trick.

Why inevitable? Because the Ilford defence gave Tony so much room to work in he could hardly miss!

Ilford largely contributed to their own downfall. Home goalkeeper Locke had a nightmare match and slack marking gave Wycombe all the room to work in they could have wanted.

The Ilford defenders could find no answers to the raids of Merrick and Worley. The Wanderers' all-round ability in every department of the game showed up against this young Ilford outfit.

FLOWING FOOTBALL

Ball control was made difficult by the bone hard surface, but Wycombe quickly mastered the awkward bouncing ball and settled down to play flowing open football.

Five up at the interval Wycombe were quite prepared to sit back on their lead and cruise along in the second half with another two Isthmian points safely tucked under their belt.

Wycombe opened the scoring after only 12 minutes. Charlie Gale's shot was charged down and while the Ilford defence hesitated a split-second it was enough for Horseman to nip in and dribble round goalkeeper Locke.

The next two goals both resulted from fatal defensive errors. Ilford's Halliday tried a suicidal back-pass from which Merrick intercepted and scored.

Then keeper Locke dropped a cross at the feet of Viv Busby, who in turn, walked the ball into the open goal.

It was one way traffic with Ilford having to defend so desperately they hardly had time to mount any attacks of their own.

THE BEST GOAL

It was, of course, Horseman who scored the best goal of the match six minutes before the break when he latched onto a glorious through ball from Samuels and hit it home on the run.

Then just on the interval Horseman was on target again to complete his first-half hat-trick and score his 60th goal of the current campaign.

Well satisfied with their lead Wycombe did enough in the second period to keep themselves out of deep water. Len Worley came off and Martin Priestley substituted.

Ilford showed grit and determination in their play after the break. But they were really hopelessly outclassed.

They did, however, raise one glimmer of hope for their supporters when Trott volleyed home a good drive early on in the second-half.

Any thoughts of a comeback were quickly dispelled as Wycombe settled down to take firm control of the match until the final whistle.

Ilford: - Locke; Russell, Halliday; D. Bullman, M. Bullman, Hill; Gregory, Keeble, Trott; Peacock, Lemmon.

Wycombe Wanderers: - Maskell; Rundle, Gale; Baker, Faulkner, Samuels; Worley, Petit, Busby, Horseman, Merrick; sub, Priestley.

WYCOMBE HIT 5 IN FIRST HALF

Ilford 1 Wycombe 5

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE title-chasers, Wycombe Wanderers, arrived nearly 20 minutes late at Newbury Park after being delayed by League Cup Final traffic.

Wycombe's goal rush began in the 12th minute when Horseman netted from close in. Three minutes later, left-winger Les Merrick followed up a weak back pass to add a second, and in the 22nd minute, centre-forward Viv Busby sent in a third after goalkeeper David Lock misjudged a Merrick cross.

Horseman scored a fourth goal in the 30th minute and then headed in No. 5 just before half-time.

Ilford fought back well in the second half, and were rewarded with a 53rd-minute goal by centre forward Jimmy Trott.